

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gowda *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,628,333) ("Gowda"). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gowda in view of Everett, Jr., (U.S. Patent No. 4,600,319) ("Everett"). Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gowda in view of Umeda *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,920,342) ("Umeda"). Applicant adds the new claims and submits the following in traversal of the prior art rejections.

Applicant's invention relates to a printer-incorporated electronic still camera that may be switched over between a photography mode, a reproduction mode, a print mode, and a setup mode by operating a mode selection dial, in an embodiment. In the embodiment, depending on whether the still camera is judged to be in a stable position or in an unstable position by an acceleration sensor, the camera displays a print menu or a camera menu.

Rejection of Claims 1, 4 and 5 Under § 102(e) By Gowda

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable because Gowda fails to disclose each and every element of the claims. For example, claim 1 recites:

A printer-incorporated electronic still camera comprising . . . ,
a mode selection device for switching over the still camera between a photography mode for converting optical images into electronic image signals through the imaging device and storing the image signals in the memory, a reproduction mode for displaying still images on the display device based on the image signals read out from the

memory, a print mode for printing the displayed still image on a recording medium, and a setup mode for setting up many kinds of setup items of the still camera, wherein the setup items are sorted into a plurality of groups, and the display device displays the setup items of one group at a time in the setup mode

in combination with other elements of the claims. (Emphasis added). In the Office Action, the Examiner states that the claimed mode selection device is disclosed as element 200 of Figure 1 in Gowda. Gowda discloses a camera, a modular printer for printing film photographs, and a modular preview unit having a display for displaying an image. In Gowda, however, the pointing device 200 is described as being used for zooming into an image (col. 5, lines 35-50) or for choosing an appropriate selection displayed on a menu (col. 6, lines 19-20). As for choosing an appropriate selection displayed on a menu, Applicant submits that the menu of Gowda does not disclose a mode such as photography mode, a reproduction mode, a print mode, or a setup mode. Rather, Gowda discloses that:

the functions of the buttons described in the *two previous sections* can be combined on a menu of functions that is displayed on each of the preview screens. The pointing device 200, when clicked on any of the selections displayed on the menu, can be used to choose the appropriate selection.

None of the “*previous sections*” discloses any sort of camera modes or any sort of setup menu.

Rather, Gowda merely discloses the use of the pointing device 200 for zooming in an image and the use of buttons designated R, A, E, P, and # for:

reversing through a series of stored digital images (R); advancing through a series of stored digital images (A); erasing an image (E); printing a displayed image or series of images (P); and individually accessing an image in a series of stored images by a descriptive identifier (for example, an image number) (#). To access an image, the user

first presses the button designated by the pound symbol (#) to obtain a list of the images on the display. The pointing device 200 can then be used to select an image from the list of images.

(Col. 5, line 61 - col. 6, line 3). None of these functions relate to the claimed setup mode for setting up many kinds of setup items of the still camera. At best, the pointing device 200 is used to select one of the above functions related to the manipulation of images within a particular mode and not to select a particular mode. Thus, Applicant submits that the pointing device 200 fails to disclose or suggest the mode selection device as claimed.

Moreover, Applicant submits that Gowda fails to disclose a display device which displays the setup items of one group at a time in the setup mode. Rather, Gowda discloses displaying on “two display screens, two sets of display menu groups.” Non-Final Office Action, page 3.

Claims 4 and 5, which depend from claim 1, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 1.

Alternatively, or in addition, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is patentable because Gowda fails to disclose or suggest the detection device and the control device as claimed. In the Office Action, the Examiner refers to column 6, lines 51-54 and argues that “[t]he electrical connection between the power source integrated in the film cartridge and the camera provides a detection signal to the camera to determine whether or not the recording medium is loaded,” and that “[i]t is inherent that the camera will remain in photography mode and not allow the user to print if there is no film cartridge and when there is a cartridge, the camera will switch

to print mode when it is selected.” Although the reference discloses the integrated power source 138 (as part of the instant film cartridge 136) as having “sufficient capacity to print N instant photographs,” the integrated power source 138 also “support[s] camera operation” to take pictures. Col. 6, lines 56-61. As a result, the instant camera 100 would not even be able to take pictures or support camera operation in the absence of the instant film cartridge 136. Thus, the supposed inherency of the camera remaining in photography mode if there is no film cartridge, is not supported and claim 4 is patentable.

Rejection of Claim 2 Under § 103(a) Over Gowda in view of Everett

Everett relates to a control processing method and apparatus for dot matrix printers which are subjected to vibration and shock. When a safe vibration or shock level is exceeded, print line data are inhibited while the input buffer temporarily stores the incoming data.

Claim 2, which depends from claim 1, is patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 1 and because Everett fails to make up for the deficiencies of Gowda.

Alternatively, or in addition, Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentable because Gowda and Everett fails to teach, suggest, or provide motivation for all elements of the claim. For example, claim 2 recites, *inter alia*:

an acceleration sensor and a device for judging by signals from the acceleration sensor whether the still camera is in a stable position or in an unstable position, and controlling the display device *to display a group of setup items that relate to the photography mode initially if the still camera is judged to be in the unstable position* when the setup mode is

selected, or a group of setup items that relate to the print mode initially if the still camera is judged to be in the stable position when the setup mode is selected.

In contrast, Everett discloses the temporary interruption of printing due to a sensed vibration or shock. The printing resumes when the vibration or the shock returns below a threshold level. Nowhere in Everett is there any suggestion or motivation for a relationship between the display of a group of setup items and sensed vibration or shock. Further, even if Everett is merely cited for its disclosure of vibration or shock sensing means, Gowda still provides no suggestion or motivation for the display of setup items relating to photography or print modes depending on the stable or unstable position of the camera when the setup mode is selected. Thus, for the above reasons, claim 2 is patentable.

Rejection of Claim 3 Under § 103(a) Over Gowda in view of Umeda

Umeda relates to an image input apparatus which comprises a camera head using a solid state image sensor and a controller connected to the camera head by a cable.

Claim 3, which depends from claim 1, is patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 1 and because Umeda fails to make up for the deficiencies of Gowda.

Alternatively, or in addition, Applicant respectfully submits that Gowda and Umeda, fail to teach, suggest, or provide motivation for

a control device for controlling the display device to display a group of setup items that relate to the photography mode initially if the lens is not shielded when the setup mode is

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selected, or a group of setup items that relate to the print mode initially if the lens is shielded when the setup mode is selected

in combination with other elements of the claim. Although Umeda discloses a camera head "provided with switches 27a, 27b and 27c for detecting the positions and states of . . . a cover 12, and a lens cover detector 28," nowhere in Umeda or Gowda is there any suggestion or motivation for any sort of relationship between what is being displayed and the positions and states of the cover 12 and the lens cover detector 28. Thus, claim 3 is patentable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


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